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SILES ANNOUNCES IMMINENT MIR RETURN TO CABINET

PY181605 Paris AFP in Spanish 1648 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] La Paz, 17 Apr (AFP) -- It was reported in La Paz today that Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo announced in a speech in Tarija that the return of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) to the government is imminent.

Immediately afterwards, the MIR leadership -- a party which withdrew from the government on 20 January 1983 -- said that the remarks by the chief of state are a historic announcement.

In response to the wishes of all sectors of the population, we are obliged to reorganize the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) on a firm base, said Siles Zuazo in a speech at a low-income neighborhood in Tarija where he travelled to celebrate a civic event.

He said: At this time it is necessary to unite in order to move ahead as we did when we had to defend the fatherland in the Chaco war [words indistinct] waged between Bolivia and Paraguay.

Prior to Siles' speech, Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora improvised a speech in which he, as MIR leader, asked Siles Zuazo to tell the people about the agreements reached in the last few days, particularly the return of the MIR to the government.

It was in view of this request that the chief of state delivered a speech announcing the imminent return of the MIR to the cabinet, without, however, giving the date of the cabinet reshuffle.

Siles Zuazo said that immediately after his return to the government headquarters (which he did last night), he will study the basis of the co-management between the UDP and the influential Bolivian Labor Federation (COB).

Siles called on the Armed Forces to identify themselves with the united effort of the people. He added that part of the military institution is already participating in this effort and that with this purpose in mind he is purging the military ranks of scoundrels.

The Bolivian president said that this united effort must be accompanied by the decision not to make unreasonable economic demands because the government will not be able to satisfy demagogic salary demands.

The presidential speech was delivered in the midst of popular slogans demanding the unity of the UDP, but at the same time there were hostile shouts among the split sectors of the divided Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), which is headed by Siles Zuazo himself.

The president made the announcement of the MIR's return to the cabinet in the presence of Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado and Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana, who has recently been harshly criticized by the MIR leadership.

SPANISH DELEGATION ARRIVES, BEGINS ACTIVITIES

PY181435 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The high-ranking delegation sent by the Spanish Government will begin its activities today. This delegation will provide cooperation and advisory services in the development of social programs, labor legislation and training of personnel.

This delegation, which is made up of technicians and experts in these fields, is headed by Spanish Ambassador to Bolivia Tomas Lozano Escribano.

The agenda for today includes a study of the results of an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between Spain and Bolivia which was signed in Madrid in 1966. This agreement was (?reaffirmed) through a supplementary agreement in April 1981.

ARGENTINE DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN LA PAZ

PY182408 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot arrived yesterday in La Paz aboard an Argentine Air Force plane. He was welcomed by his Bolivian counterpart Jose Ortiz Mercado.

PRESIDENT OFFICIALLY INVITED TO VISIT SPAIN

PY181900 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1406 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] La Paz, 16 Apr (EFE) -- Official sources reported today that Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has been officially invited to visit Spain at the end of this month to participate in an international meeting called "Encounter in Democracy" to be held in Madrid.

This democratic encounter will take place from 27 to 29 April in Madrid with the participation of government authorities and outstanding international personalities, the sources stated.

The Spanish Embassy in Bolivia has stated that if Siles Zuazo's presence in Spain is confirmed, he will be honored for his untiring struggle for the recovery of democracy in Bolivia.

Government authorities initially confirmed that President Siles Zuazo's visit to Spain would take place on 26 April, but they are still awaiting confirmation from the National Congress.

They also said that they are expecting a positive development during the next few days in the political-economic crisis Bolivia is experiencing so as to allow President Siles Zuazo to travel to Spain and Peru in order to hold meetings with the main authorities of those two countries.

INTERVIEW WITH NICARAGUAN OPPOSITIONIST ROBELO

PA181845 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Interview with Alfonso Robelo, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, in Panama City on 15 April -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Robelo] Today, 15 April, is the first anniversary of Commander Pastora's open denunciation in Costa Rica of the communist dictatorship in Nicaragua. A few weeks ago we announced that we would hold a definitive news conference to discuss our future activities. To this end, I went to Mexico on Thursday, 14 April. Everything had been prepared for a news conference today, Friday, 15 April, at 1000 in the headquarters of the Association of Foreign Correspondents in Mexico. At this news conference we were going to read a letter that Commander Pastora sent me from Nicaragua.

So what happened today in Mexico City? At 0730, a Mexican security agent arrived in my room in the Presidente Hotel. He forced me to accompany him to the offices of the under secretary of government. They made me wait until I was received by Col Jorge Carrillo (Olea), undersecretary of government. This officer told me that I had not requested permission to hold this news conference and that they felt that it was untimely and unsuitable for me to hold that news conference in Mexico.

I was well treated, but I was detained, deported from Mexico and prevented from holding a news conference about my country, for which I had been summoned. I had previously gotten a Mexican visa; I had the permit necessary to enter Mexico. Everything had gone normally. The only other strange thing was the fact that yesterday, when I arrived in Mexico, a crew from the government television station was waiting for me and interviewed me at length. I don't know whether or not they aired this interview because I was very busy last night in Mexico City, but this may have been a means of learning what I meant to say in order to deport me later and keep me from freely expressing my views about my country in Mexico.

[Question] What could you tell me about the southern front?

[Answer] Commander Pastora is already in Nicaragua. We don't want to talk about a southern front because it is much bigger than that. We have a nationwide organization which we are sure will become active right away. You will feel the flexing of this muscle, which has been organized in Nicaragua in recent months.

[Question] The Sandinists get a lot of publicity with their claim that the democratic guerrilla forces currently fighting are really Somozist forces. They refuse to admit that there are other forces that were not Somoza's former policemen. They insist on this aspect. What do you say to this?

[Answer] Yesterday I had a magnificent opportunity to fly from San Jose to Mexico with NEWSWEEK reporter James Le Moyne. He had been in Nicaragua with the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force]. He lived and shared with them for a period of 7 days. He is a very serious and objective man, a graduate of Harvard University, etc. He said that among the forces with which he coexisted -- some 400 men -- there were 12 former national guardsmen, or 3 percent of the FDN combatants that he saw. I honestly believe that the FDN includes a minority of people formerly connected with the National Guard. The overwhelming majority is peasants and small farmers who have seen how Nicaragua is being enslaved and they have either gone to Honduras or have risen in arms in Nicaragua. They are the ones fighting.

[Question] A dispatch reported yesterday that the Nicaraguan foreign minister had said that there is no need for the foreign advisers to leave Nicaragua. Although he did not mention the Cubans, he did talk about the foreign advisers in Nicaragua. He said that an army is currently under formation in Nicaragua; therefore, the army needs foreign advice. He sees no need for a withdrawal of the advisers and he said that definitely they will not leave Nicaragua.

[Answer] D'Escoto's statement is obviously just another lie. The Nicaraguan Government has been organizing an army for the past 3 and 1/2 years. Its militia is the biggest in Central America. Advisers are already unnecessary. They don't have advisers; they have interventionist elements. We must realize that Nicaragua currently has more Cuban interventionist elements than there were Marines in Sandino's day. I don't know if people are aware of this. We think that the U.S. intervention in the 30's from 1927 to 1933, was reprehensible, but the current Cuban intervention is of even greater magnitude. It is very sneaky; some are teachers, others are road builders, others are agrarian reform advisers or doctors, but the fact is that there are 1,800 Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua. Currently there are 8,000 Cubans in our country and all of them have received military training.

[Question] D'Escoto also said a few minutes ago on Panamanian television, at the airport enroute from Colombia, that Nicaragua has not been affected by the U.S. economic pressures, that that was the least of its problems. In other words, he said, the economic pressures exerted are not important. On the other hand, I read this weekend in the Costa Rican papers about the rationing that the people are enduring. You are better informed about the domestic situation in Nicaragua. Tell us about the people's current economic situation.

[Answer] D'Escoto was a privileged person during Somoza's days, when he was the son of one of Somoza's ambassadors. He sent a telegram to Somoza's widow expressing condolences over the death of the older Somoza. This is history, because we have a photocopy of the telegram. He is still a privileged person so, naturally he is unaffected. D'Escoto has all the food he wants, all the rice and sugar he may want. He has more than enough to lead a very good life. He is not affected.

The situation, however, affects the poor Nicaraguan people. We in Costa Rica receive refugees who tell us that there are only 2 lbs of rice per family per month, 1 liter of oil per family per month, 1 ball of soap per family per month. They have told us that rationing is terrible, as are the lines formed to buy gasoline. People complain the most about the fact that -- and this is what people most compare about Nicaragua's current situation and the situation under Somoza -- with Somoza we had a dictatorship but, honestly, the staples were abundant. Today we not only have a dictatorship but also a total scarcity of staples.

[Question] Let's go back to this issue of the number of Cuban advisers and the 3 and 1/2 years of formation of the Nicaraguan Army, as you have mentioned. Let's also talk about the current violent struggle in certain parts of Nicaragua. Many people feel pessimistic when they hear about the force of an organized, well-advised and heavily armed army. Secretary of State Shultz spoke today about the Russian tanks that Nicaragua has, noting that the United States has not sent any heavy equipment to Central America. But he did mention Nicaragua's Russian tanks. In the face of that military might, don't you see the struggle as very difficult?

[Answer] If we were talking about a conventional war in which two armies confront each other, the tanks, artillery and all these sophisticated weapons would obviously be decisive factors. But if we are talking about guerrilla warfare -- which is what is currently being waged in Nicaragua and what I think will be fought for quite a while -- I honestly do not fear that weaponry imbalance so much.

There is another important element: The members of the army who use those tanks, that artillery and so forth, are also men who go home and learn about the people's tremendous dissatisfaction and about the general repudiation of the dictatorship established by the FSLN National Directorate. I am sure that once suitable conditions are presented to them, they will come over to our side.

The weapons are important, but the men using those weapons are equally important, as is the way in which they think. I have faith because I know there is great dissatisfaction among army ranks. Nobody can be pleased with the fact that the Nicaraguan revolution which inspired as much hope has been humiliatingly turned over to the Cubans and through them to the Soviets. The Nicaraguan revolution goes to the extreme of calling itself Sandinist, which is the very essence of nationalism, yet it has surrendered to the foreigners. So let's not be so afraid of that.

According to our reports, the militias do not want to fight because nobody wants to defend a regime that they repudiate. Furthermore, their training is very superficial. Whenever the army has confronted the military actions currently underway in the central part of Nicaragua, they have fared poorly.

I honestly believe that those Nicaraguans who engage in the armed struggle have a real chance to overthrow this new dictatorship. In addition, we have the Nicaraguan people on our side. They have vivid memories of their struggle against Somoza.

[Question] They say that forewarned is forearmed, yet Eden Pastora is telling those on the other side that in 15 days he will begin shooting. I don't understand that.

[Answer] No, that is not what he is saying. There may be some confusion. He said: I am writing this proclamation on Nicaraguan soil, where I have decided to engage in an armed struggle beside my people and to die if necessary for my unswerving ideals of freedom and democracy, as taught by Zeledon, Sandino, and Pedro Joaquin. In other words, the struggle has begun, but we are nobly telling the Cubans: You have 15 days to leave the country. Otherwise, gentlemen, be advised that we will expel you or you will die. In other words, the armed action has already begun on our side in Nicaragua. Rather than announcing war, that statement is an ultimatum, a last chance for the Cubans to leave.

[Question] One question: What contract is there between the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [Arde] and the Democratic National Front [presumably the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN]?

[Answer] The two organizations are not independent. The FDN, the organization that has infiltrated all the troops into Nicaragua, has a new political directorate which includes includes six civilians and a former military man. As leader and member of the Arde revolutionary directorate I have already held talks and contacts with the civilians. They have been personal and private contacts, but a line of communication already exists; it must be gradually developed.

[Question] Another cause for concern with regard to the Central American situation is the difficult situation in the United States.

A few days ago, four congressmen, members of the House of Representatives, arrived from El Salvador and Nicaragua defending those countries. They held a news conference and became strong defenders of those countries. We are witnessing the serious struggle being waged by President Reagan and his administration to help those countries that are openly fighting communism, such as El Salvador and Nicaragua. Don't you, who are fighting at the political and diplomatic level outside the armed terrain, think that perhaps there is need for more information and the need to sell your ideas to U.S. public opinion, since in the United States the public opinion controls the administration?

[Answer] I think you are right. I think that your observation is truly very accurate. One of the most serious problems is the fact that perhaps the U.S. press has some hangup and it is always against the administration, especially if it is a Republican administration like the current one. The press constantly manipulates information to discredit those who are trying to counterbalance the Soviet and communist influence in the hemisphere. I think that in the end we will obtain positive results. Yet, it is worrisome that these things happen within the U.S. democracy and state bureaucracy and that in this manner, a new base of operations might be handed over to the Soviets on a silver platter, in the very heart of the Latin American hemisphere. It will no longer be just Cuba and Grenada; now it will also be Nicaragua, in the very heart of Central America.

We wish there were no participation by either Americans, Soviets, Argentines or Cubans, but we are faced with the reality that Nicaragua is a country intervened by Cubans who are playing the sad role of pawns of Soviet imperialism. It seems to me that to believe that the United States will fold its arms and do nothing is tantamount to giving to the Soviets on a silver platter the chance to consolidate a new satellite in the very heart of Latin America.

[Question] We are all familiar with the leftist or Marxist influence on the international media. But knowing this -- and you must be familiar with this situation also -- aren't you making any big effort to counteract the distorted and manipulated information that reaches our peoples?

[Answer] I think that proof of the fact that we do want to make the big effort you mention is the fact that we went to Mexico. This was perhaps equivalent to going into the lion's den, in terms of the kind of press that tries to distort reality. Mexico, the Mexican people and the Mexican press have handled the Nicaraguan situation in a way that is completely favorable to the communists in Nicaragua. We went there to set the record straight. From there I had planned to go on to the United States to explain things to the U.S. people. As you have seen, we found that Mexico would not allow us to work; it did not allow us to hold a news conference. But we will launch a huge campaign now. This campaign will be mostly my responsibility, since Commander Pastora is carrying the weight of the military side of this struggle. The campaign will be my responsibility. We think this campaign is important and we will launch it.

[Question] After you arrived here in Panama, an international dispatch reported that the Mexican authorities were claiming that you had made the decision to leave Mexico because you had not found the right atmosphere to hold your news conference. What can you say to this?

[Answer] I became indignant reading that release from a spokesman of the office of the deputy government secretary. It is clear evidence of the most despicable hypocrisy and cynicism on the part of a government office which presumably should be serious. It shows the Mexican Government's duality which, as I have already said, borders on the most reprehensible cynicism and hypocrisy.

## COSTA RICA

### CHANGES REPORTED IMMINENT WITHIN CABINET

PA181508 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Changes will reportedly take place in the government's upper echelons. Although this is all speculation, it apparently may become true in many cases because the speculation is being encouraged by high-level officials. It has been reported that Agriculture and Livestock Minister Morales will become labor minister and that Labor Minister Guillermo Sandoval will be transferred to the secretariat of the National Liberation Party [PLN]. Also, it seems that Sandoval will assume the leadership of a group that is now forming and that Claudio Volio, national planning and economic policy minister, will be transferred to the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. The transfer of some ministers is deemed likely because they have not done as well as had been expected in their original positions.

Our source said that the Foreign Relations Ministry will presumably be among those with a new head because the criticism raised during the recent PLN youth congress had a profound impact. The source added that there are several people in government circles who can fill Volio's position but that whomever is offered the post will be very knowledgeable in foreign affairs. This does not mean the candidate will be Presidency Minister Fernando Berrocal. Foreign Minister Volio will be operated on this morning by a team of specialists at the Mexico Hospital, medical and Foreign Ministry sources have confirmed. Medical examinations and tests performed on Volio, who was hospitalized Tuesday, showed that he is suffering from some arterial deficiencies and sources said without elaborating.

Doctors estimate that Volio will need to convalesce at least 5 weeks before returning to his post after the surgery he will undergo this morning. It has been reported that the surgery is major and that it will last a little over an hour. It was stressed, however, that Volio is generally in good health. It was also reported that doctors are closely monitoring Volio's condition prior to the operation.

### CUBAN REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICE REJECTED

PA181345 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Apr 83 p 13A

[Text] The government has rejected the Cuban Government's request for authorization to open a commercial office in our capital, First Vice President Alberto Fait Lizano has announced. The official met Thursday with Adalberto Marrero and Roberto Marquez, members of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee. Fait Lizano told them that for the time being this request cannot be honored.

According to Fait Lizano, the Cuban delegates arrived in our country last Wednesday with a visa issued by the immigration department. He added that Prof Jesus Manuel Fernandez, our ambassador in Nicaragua, gave them the visa in that country.

The Right Climate Does Not Exist

Fait Lizano told the Cubans that at this point the right climate does not exist in national public opinion for Cuba to reopen a commercial office.

He also told them that the tense situation currently prevailing in Central America does not favor such a decision. The vice president said that for now there will be no relations of any kind with Cuba. He warned, however, that Costa Rica cannot deny itself the sovereign right to negotiate with any country in the near future.

He did insist, however, that in Cuba's specific case this will not happen for now. Cuba had consular relations with Costa Rica until 1980. Rodrigo Carazo's administration broke these ties when it confirmed that the Cuban diplomats were interfering in our domestic affairs.

Last Sunday, President Monge said in Panama that relations with Cuba will not be reestablished for the time being. Vice President Fiat denied having discussed politics with the Cubans. "Our dialogue dealt with trade," he insisted. He denied knowing whether any other government official had spoken with the Cubans.

NICARAGUAN PILOT REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM

PA190217 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0023 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A Nicaraguan pilot stole an airplane used for agricultural spraying and landed this afternoon at Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose.

The pilot, Ricardo Espinoza Castro, was scheduled to fly from Las Lajas, in Nicaragua's Granada Department, to Leon. However, he changed course during flight and headed toward Costa Rica in his plane, a one-seater with identification YN-BOZ. Upon landing at the Costa Rican airport, he turned himself over to security officials and requested political asylum at the Foreign Relations ministry.

Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano granted the pilot territorial asylum and police protection, while they investigate under what conditions the pilot fled Nicaragua. Espinoza stated that he could not continue to live under a political system without liberty or human rights.

## EL SALVADOR

ACAN REPORTS GARCIA'S RESIGNATION, REPLACEMENT

PA181441 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1427 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana has accepted the resignation tendered by Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, military sources unofficially informed ACAN-EFE today. The sources added that Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova, National Guard director up to now, has been appointed to the post.

Vides Casanova told ACAN-EFE this morning that he was aware of this possibility, but that he is waiting for President Magana to publicly announce it sometime during the day. General Garcia has been defense minister since October 1979 when a military coup overthrew Gen Carlos Humberto Romero.

Col Juan Rafael Bustillo, commander of the Salvadoran Air Force, demanded General Garcia's resignation last Wednesday. Bustillo threatens to disavow Garcia if he did not resign. Official sources have not yet confirmed the dismissal, but added that there will be a press conference by Magana at the Presidential House today.

VIDES CASANOVA APPOINTED NEW DEFENSE MINISTER

PA190009 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2340 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Salvadoran Government communique issued in San Salvador on 18 April 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Presidency and the Armed Forces General Command announce that on 18 March 1983 Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia presented his resignation as defense and public security minister, which was accepted on 12 April 1983 to become effective as of today.

In accordance with Executive Decree No 400 dated 18 April 1983, Gen Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova is hereby appointed. As established in the Constitution, the appointment has been submitted to the honorable Constituent Assembly for ratification. [Date] San Salvador, 18 April 1983 [Signed] Dr Alvaro Magana Borjo, provisional president.

GARCIA NEWS CONFERENCE, RESIGNATION STATEMENT

PA182355 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2032 GMT 18 Apr 83

[News conference granted by Salvadoran Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia at the offices of the Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador on 18 Apr -- recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I see that there is a big crowd here. I want to tell you journalists that it is an honor to be with you again. Just as I promised, I am meeting with you not for you to ask me questions but simply for me to gather you together and answer one question, a question that I'm sure is in all of your minds. The answer to this question is: Yes. As I have always done in the past -- because I like to reason, explain and tell the truth -- I feel this is the right time for you to ask any questions you want, aside from that which I already answered and which I'm sure nobody will ask for obvious reasons. I believe all of you understood what I was referring to. However, I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can on any topic. I am at your disposal.

[Question] With your resignation as Salvadoran defense minister, would you accept a nomination or a proposal from a political party for the coming elections in El Salvador?

[Answer] I have always been asked this question, and I have always listened to it attentively. I dare say that I might even answer it in the same way I have before: today, 18 April, I am not in any condition to think about what you are asking. It is as simple as that.

[Question indistinct]
[Answer] Pardon me?
[Question indistinct]
[Answer] Thinking about candidacies, which is what you are asking about.

[Question] But if any party were to ask you, let's say as a civilian or a military officer, to [words indistinct] peace in this country, would you accept this proposal, or at least listen to this party's offer?

[Answer] Well, at this time I don't think I can answer yes or no to this question. I can only say it would be under very special circumstances, and I would answer at the right time.

[Question] General Garcia, during the period you were defense and public security minister, do you think you fulfilled your duty completely, or do you think there were certain failures on your part?

[Answer] Who is the only one who doesn't make mistakes? God. All human beings make mistakes of one kind or another. I can't answer that question because we've all made mistakes. However, regarding the first part of your question: I have fulfilled the duties that were assigned to me on 16 October 1979, the day after the coup. We all know that there have been differences and problems. But as I have said many times, the only one that makes no mistakes is he who does nothing. Therefore, one must admit that more than one mistake was made during my term as defense minister.

[Question] When did you submit your resignation? When did President Magana accept it? Who will be the new minister?

[Answer] First answer: I submitted my written regination to the president of the republic, 1 month ago. Second answer: He made his decision a few days ago, and he had already told me about it. Third question: Who will replace me? You are all waiting for me to tell you. With due respect to you, I know the person who will replace me, but the president has not authorized me to tell you. I ask you to please forgive me for not giving you the name, but I do know who will replace me.

[Question] Is that person the minister effective right now?

[Answer] Yes, effective today.

[Question] What does today mean? Beginning at what time?

[Answer] According to the decree, my duties end today. So, if my duties end at midnight, then it begins after midnight. If he is appointed before, then he is already the defnese minister. If this hasn't been done, which might be the case, [words indistinct] then the deputy defense minister can replace me.

[Question indistinct]
[Answer] There are no other changes.
[Question indistinct]
[Answer] Well, if you give me a chance to read my resignation [words indistinct]

Mr President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Mr. President:

With due respect, and according to our legal and democratic system, I wish to express my gratitude for the confidence bestowed on me when you took me into consideration on the occasion of forming your government and appointed me defense and public security minister, a post which I today resign -- strictly due to personal reasons -- while expressing my strong belief in the democratic process you defend and pursue so courageously, and in which I had the honor of collaborating.

As a Salvadoran and as a solider, I deplore the tragedy that afflicts our homeland. I have tried, with my actions and all possible means, to collaborate with you, the people and the armed forces -- which is the only commitment a soldier should have.

I am confident that, God willing, our homeland will soon be different. With the courage of our armed forces, their honor, discipline, loyalty and unity, as well as the sacrifice of our valiant people, we will achieve the peace we desire so much.

[Question] What is the date of your resignation?

[Answer] It is dated 18 March, when it was submitted to the president.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I told all the commanders in a meeting held last month, and I repeat to you now: I never made any commitments to anyone. I only told the commanders that if it was necessary for me to resign to solve a problem for the benefit of the armed forces and our people, I was very willing to do so. However, I want to explain that this was a commitment to all the commanders of the various garrisons in the countries.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] To tell the truth, there have been some; and you can imagine them. However, believe that perhaps it is not the time to express any rancor or resentment -- which I don't feel, anyway -- toward any person in regard to the case we are discussing now.

[Question] Did the U.S. Embassy have any involvement in supporting you or anyone else in this situation?

[Answer] I believe that if the U.S. Embassy or any other embassy of any country in the world had interfered for or against what we are discussing it would have been classic intervention. We have always said that it is our ideal, position and source of satisfaction that although we are a small and poor country we have not lost our dignity. We will always be honest and keep our heads high, facing our people and defending with our humility, poverty and smallness that which in the field of honor we call dignity. Therefore, I state that the U.S. Embassy has had no involvement of any kind.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The truth is that I don't have the 30 years in service. This is another rumor that has been created. Many of you are witnesses to this. Many of you asked me this before. Therefore, I want to explain that I don't have 30 years in service; so, as a soldier, I am at the disposal of the commander in chief of the armed forces, and I am willing to accept whatever he decides to do with me.

[Question] Has the government offered you another position?
[Answer] Yes, but I would rather not say which position was offered.

[Question] There are rumors that you will be appointed ambassador to the United States.

[Answer] No, I will not be the ambassador to the United States.

[Question] Mr Minister, would you like to be the ambassador?

[Answer] No. At this time I believe that for a number of reasons it is probably not advisable -- and I ask you in a very personal manner to forgive me -- to discuss it; but I want to let you know that I have received offers, and with all due respect I have turned them down.

[Question] Mr Minister, [words indistinct] has someone been appointed defense minister, or is the appointment still not official?

[Answer] Another defense minister has not yet been appointed, but I am sure that the appointment will be made shortly.

[Question] If there is no appointment, would the deputy defense minister fill the position?

[Answer] That is right. If the new defense minister is not appointed today, the deputy defense minister, as of midnight, will, by tradition, serve as defense minister.

[Question] What are the chances that this will be the solution to the problem?

[Answer] What problem?

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] This appointment depends solely and exclusively on the president of the republic.

[Question] Mr Minister, we understand that there have been no changes within the high command. Have there been any changes within the General Staff?

[Answer] There are absolutely no changes. I have been telling you that the only change up to now is that of the defense minister.

[Question] Mr Minister, in an overall glance at the Salvadoran situation, how would you describe the future? Do you believe the armed forces will win the war, or will teh guerrillas win?

[Answer] The war will be won by the Salvadoran Armed Forces together with the people. I wish to say that although there is a chance of one or the other winning, I want to state emphatically that if we were to describe briefly the actions carried out by the armed forces during this struggle imposed on our country, then we would have to say that the actions have been positive. I want to remind you of the obstacles that we have had to overcome, and because of which we have had to gather new strength to continue. Remember the problems of the junta, political problems, and then the so-called final offensive that started on 10 January 1980. I wish to remind you that during that offensive the army fought alone, without help from anyone. The help came after the offensive. The army was able to resist and overcome this offensive described as final. It was a threat; they gave our institution 3 months. But 2 years have gone by already, and here we are, fighting and trying to achieve the goals that the armed forces have set for themselves. Personally I believe that this situation will be resolved soon, based on the attitude adopted by the armed forces on the battlefield, and on other administrative and political attitudes.

[Question] Mr Minister, during your meeting with the president did you speak of the democratic process [words indistinct]

[Answer] I believe we should not confuse the internal actions of the armed forces with the democratic plan that the government is trying to carry out. And speaking of this, it may be worthwhile for your information as well as for all the people who will read or listen to your comments that we have cooperated -- as I mentioned in my letter of resignation -- with the president of the republic in his effort toward democracy. I am convinced that this is what will save us; the democratic plan.

We have also sponsored actions to destroy, from its roots, the main causes that have brought about the tragedy in our country. I am saying that in El Salvador justice must be achieved so that there will be freedom. In El Salvador we must have a broad plan the change attitudes toward human rights, and not only human rights in general but all that has to do specifically with our country and our people, the human rights of the Salvadoran people. I believe that within this framework in which we have cooperated and struggled there is something important that I believe you should understand and try to comprehend: We have defended the reforms that have been made in our country. At times this has been the reason for the problems in the development of our work, but we are convinced that it is necessary to support the reforms made in our country in order to overcome the problem we are facing.

[Question] Mr Minister, the new system outlined for the armed forces will greatly affect the reforms in our country. In regard to democracy in our country, you have opposed the dialogue. Would you please give us your opinion regarding this and please include the elections.

[Answer] I hope that the president will continue, with his group, to develop the democratic process that, I repeat, I believe is one of the ways to save our country. In regard to this I have always been clear, and I have followed the president's clear and decisive policy. Now, in regard to elections, I would like to say that I have been one of the people who has promoted the elections within the democratic process. I promoted the first elections, those held on 28 March, during which the Salvadoran people showed the world their courage. This was a brave and positive attitude taken by the Salvadoran people. What I don't want, and what concerns me, is for the people to be disappointed. Our people deserve more than they have received. The people should not be fooled; the people should accept, but only as long as they are aware and understand what they are doing, so that they may justify what they want. This has been and is one of my concerns: To struggle for the people not to be fooled. I believe that the Salvadoran people deserve more than they have received, and I am sure the president feels the same way; and that is why I say that we should support him, because he is very, very clear as to what has to be done to achieve what the people want.

[Question] General Garcia, in regard to your resignation as defense minister today, do you think that abroad this will show some lack of stability within the Salvadoran Armed Forces; and to what extent could your resignation prevent U.S. aid from easily getting to our country?

[Answer] This is a difficult question, because all the negative actions of an institution or organization are always judged under a different light, and of course the armed forces are no exception. As to whether we will or will not have aid, I hope we will. Incidents such as these should not justify a halt to aid. There are other criteria, as well. I have always been a promoter of aid, and I have gone before our people, other peoples and other governments, struggling for this type of aid. But that is no longer within my reach. From now on, the responsibility is in the hands of other people. I trust and know that these people will achieve the objectives of the Salvadoran people and the armed insititution.

[Question] There have been rumors that your resignation is the result of big differences within the armed forces. Could you tell us about this problem?

[Answer] There are differences. There are differences in regard to (passage indistinct). But I want to tell you that as far as the armed forces are concerned, this struggle must follow a [word indistinct] scheme, and we've done this. At no time has the defense minister ignored his responsibility.

I have faced all my responsibilities in good and bad times. I have always tried to tell the truth. I have always told the truth to the people's face. I have never deceived them. Regarding the armed forces, I feel that differences must be eliminated in order to continue forward within a climate of [words indistinct] for the benefit of our people.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] [Word indistinct] Briefly, of course, I can tell you that we've met our goals. We met these goals at a time when El Salvador [words indistinct] changes that all the people know about, and with all the efforts we have made. Since you mention Gen Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, for whom I have great respect and a [word indistinct] professional and personal admiration, I want to tell you that he has also fulfilled his duties in the post he has. Something I have said before comes to mind: To be an official in El Salvador right now is not easy, and to be a defense minister is not easy. You have to take certain risks. You have to be adventurous, but you have to have a purpose, which means having an interest that is not personal. It means having a collective interest in mind. It is the interest of our people. The people are crying out for justice and freedom and they deserve more than they have received.

We have fought for this. General Vides Casanova has fought with all his ability to try to join efforts and achieve what we want. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of understanding and different opinions; however, I want to stress that our attitude has been honest and, as far as we know, for the benefit of our forces but never for ours.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I know who the new minister will be, but with all due respect, I must say that I am not authorized to tell you. I beleive that one of the main rules for a soldier, regardless of his rank, is that as long as he is not authorized, he must not make the decision to do something just because he feels like it.

It would be easy for me to tell you, but I do not have the authorization of the commander in chief of the armed forces. I believe that with this [words indistinct] giving an exemplary response for my armed forces. One must act correctly according to the circumstances, but always respecting what every soldier must know in the widest sense of the military profession.

I have not forgotten -- and I am recalling this -- the oath taken by every Salvadoran soldier: I swear on my honor to defend the integrity of our territory and the country's flag as the sacred symbol of the homeland, to serve the government of the republic and obey the superior [words indistinct].

[Question] General, you just said that as a good soldier... [Garcia interrupts]

[Answer] No, I said as a soldier, not as a good soldier. [laughter] Others must judge whether I have been a good soldier. Well, I said as a soldier.

[Question] Well, you said that as a soldier you can't give us the name of the new defense minister, although you know it. Could you give us the military rank of your replacement? [laughter]

[Answer] Now you are forcing me to say nothing. [laughter] [words indistinct] I've worked with great satisfaction. You know [words indistinct] But I can stress that I've always been loyal and fair. At least I've tried to be this way with all of you, who deserve my complete respect.

[Journalists] Thank you.

[Garcia] I think this is the end of the questions. Allow me to add somethingthat means a lot to me. I want to thank you for the cooperation you've given me. This is to all of you. I also thank all the Salvadoran people who have collaborated with me in one way or another. I thank all those humble people who would always tell me that they were praying for me to be successful. To them, I am deeply thankful. I've always said that there is a divine power that takes care of all these things. Therefore, at this moment of tragedy in the country, it is God who decides everything.

To all these people and all of you, I give my thanks for the cooperation you've given me. As you may recall, I usually began my speeches with one thought and ended with another. However, since this is a news conference, allow me to close it, after thanking you, with a thought that means a lot to me, because there is no rancor and no resentment; on the contrary, there is a great spirituality and a deep feeling of understanding. We say: May God guide our people so that soon -- because I feel the conditions are present -- we can solve this problem. We have advanced far and achieved a lot. I am certain that soon we'll have peace again.

I end this appearance by telling you that every beginning has an end, but every end is a beginning. Thank you.

PDC NAMES DUARTE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA182331 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte was today elected presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, of El Salvador for the next presidential elections that will take place at the end of the year.

The PDC convention was held behind closed doors beginning early today. Duarte defeated Fidel Chavez Mena, who is currently foreign relations minister.

Napoleon Duarte was formerly president of the civic military government junta, and is the honorary president of the Christian Democratic Party. He received 121 votes against 61 for Chavez Mena. It is not known who will accompany Duarte on the PDC ticket. The PDC has called a press conference for this afternoon.

REBELS DAMAGE VEHICLES ON PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY

PA181229 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Economy sources have reported that in 3 days the guerrillas have caused 6 million colones in damage. The transportation available to residents in the eastern zones is in a deplorable state and according to reports received at the Economy Ministry and Transportation General Directorate, the damage caused along the Panamerican Highway amounts to more than 6 million colones.

In less than 3 days more than 32 cars were destroyed or partly destroyed between the Cuscatlan Bridge and the road to Santiago de Maria. For the time being this damage cannot be repaired and the small and medium businessmen as well as those who have to use public transportation face serious inconveniences.

REBELS KILLED, CAMPS DESTROYED IN CHALATENANGO

PA180438 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Military sources told this newscast that during 4 days of counterinsurgency operations north of the capital city of Chalatenango Department, 60 km north of San Salvador, 7 camps have been dismantled and not less than 10 subversives have been killed.

Meanwhile, the whole of Chalatenango Department remains -- as it has for the past 2 days -- without electricity. The same sources said that rebels destroyed some secondary high-voltage towers in the areas of (Hacienda), Colima and El Paraiso. Up to now, Rio Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission authorities have offered no details regarding the damage that has completely paralyzed production in Chalatenango Department.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Actions Near Corinto

PA180445 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Battle report from the general command of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front; no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] This morning, 17 April, units of the Rafael Antonio Arce Zablah Brigade patrolling the area north of Corinto clashed with troops of the Antonal, Cazadores and Juguar special battalions. Our units had been patrolling the area since we were advised that the enemy had initiated an operation 4 days ago that included the whole northern part of La Union Department, in Lislique, Anamoros, and areas near Corinto and Sociedad.

All day the special battalions have been supported by intensive aerial fire and artillery. Highly populated areas near Corinto and Sociedad have been bombed, causing many civilian casualties. San Francisquito Canton, east of Corinto, has been one of the locations hardest hit. Units of the Rafeal Antonio Arce Zablah Brigade have reported that as of 1830 today they had inflicted 40 casualties on the enemy; 32 wounded and 8 dead. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] General Command of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front

Plan to Sabotage Cash Crops

PA181258 (Clandestine) Radio Vinceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] We will not let the dictatorship maintain its war economy. We won't let them obtain foreign exchange to continue their war against the people. We will sabotage the coffee, cotton and sugarcane crops on the farms and ranches of the oligarches and landowners who exploit and repress the people throughout the country, especially those in the east.

Coffee, cotton and sugarcane are the regime's main exports. These crops yield the foreign exchange that the army desperately needs to survive, that army which is irremediably sinking. For this reason, our military and militia forces will sabotage these crops. We also announce that our military forces will respect the basic grain crops and harvests because these grains are used to feed our people.

## GUATEMALA

### RIOS MONTT ON AMNESTY ADVANCES, PEACE EFFORTS

PA181619 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Weekly message to the nation by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt -- recorded]

[Excerpts] There are only two powers: the United States and the USSR. Unfortunately, the USSR and the United States have difficulties in preserving their own security. These very difficulties compel then United States and the USSR to maintain positions within a world context to defend and preserve their power.

Guatemala is much closer to Los Angeles than Los Angeles is to New York; therefore, if the USSR had missiles in Guatemala, it could destroy Los Angeles at any time. That is why the United States is concerned about having the area continue to conform to its defense and security needs. The United States has not realized, however, that we cannot be good friends because we are sick and we are ignorant; we are illiterate and poor. A friend should support his friends, but if they are going to give us weapons to help defend us, then the situation is going to get worse because if we are sick, ignorant and unemployed, with weapons we would get worse. We want to be ourselves, to stabilize our situation, feel proud of our country. Only then can we participate in and work for continental defense.

Nevertheless, I ask: How and at what cost are we going to do this? First we are men of peace and a man of peace is strong and must identify himself as such. Peace, however, is a matter of effort. Peace is not bought or given free. You cannot buy peace in the market, because there you only find greed and vanity which can destroy us as men, as a family and as a nation. That is why I want you to understand that the dollars and quetzales are not peace; the law is not peace; the taxes are not peace; weapons are not peace; the security corps are not peace.

The reconciliation amnesty is bearing fruit because more than 100 people have already accepted it and have surrendered. We have investigated them and confirmed that they had simply been forced to participate in subversive operations. Eighty-seven people have already surrendered; they all have records because they had participated directly in subversive action. We are giving exact figures. We could either inflate or reduce them, but we are not interested in lying to the people. These figures were correct up to 1700 day before yesterday. We have since learned that others surrendered yesterday.

The important thing, however, is that the government enjoys credibility because we tell the truth and the subversive moment knows it. That is why they are desperately doing everything possible to discredit us, but we already know how they operate. We have extended our hand to them, a hand of reconciliation, not a hand of force. Many are leaving their ranks and now they are killing the deserters out of desperation.

Some politicians are trying to give us their remedies and are criticizing our attitude. They are merely trying to improve their image by making absurd charges; they are only thinking of themselves. What can we expect of the business and industry managers, of the warlocks of devaluation and nondevaluation? We are acting from firm and serious foundations to adopt the financial, economic and monetary measures that respond to our reality. There is no time for playing around. It is necessary to realize that life is no longer an easy toy, that we are facing a serious crisis and anguish and that we are aware of the world's problems.

## HONDURAS

### PRESIDENT SUAZO, ORTEGA EXCHANGE MESSAGES

PA181832 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The tension between Nicaragua and Honduran still exists. The Sandinist Government has carried out a misinformation campaign that is causing great harm to the country's image and consequently to investment possibilities by both locals and foreigners.

The Ministry of the Presidency has sent us two important documents: The first is a letter sent by the top representative of the Nicaraguan Government, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of Reconstruction. To give you a complete idea of the situation, we read you the key portion of the letter sent by the Nicaraguan Government:

A few days ago, the Honduran Government presented to the OAS a draft resolution on the defense of Central America, sponsored and promoted by the U.S. Government. That draft resolution is absolutely unacceptable to Nicaragua. The nature of that biased and incomplete draft, which is totally divorced from the true causes of the Central American crisis, only promotes the interventionist designs of the Reagan administration and opens the door to a greater, generalized conflict in the area, according to the letter sent by Daniel Ortega to the Honduran President.

In this regard, Nicaragua continues to believe that bilateral dialogue, within the spirit of Contadora, is the appropriate measures, because it is a serious effort to achieve a solution to the problems being faced by the region. Thus, Nicaragua reaffirms its position of keeping the doors open to dialogue and negotiation. Nevertheless, any effort to reach a solution has unrenounceable requirements: The unconditional withdrawal of the Somozist counterrevolutionary forces that have invaded Nicaragua with the support and assistance of the United States; an immediate end to the border attacks on Nicaraguan territory being carried out by the counterrevolutionary bands and the Honduran Army.

The attitude assumed by the U.S. and Honduran Governments with regard to Nicaragua and other countries in the area, which encourages violence, interventionism and crime, systematically hinders all serious efforts made to ease tension. This policy is causing an accelerated decline of the real possibilities for reaching a negotiated solution to the Central American problem.

The serious responsibility for avoiding a generalization of the conflict requires an effort by everyone, an effort directed basically at preventing the continued development and presentation of U.S. aggressive policy in the region which, against the will of our peoples and disregarding all laws, seeks to impose a military solution that will reestablish foreign domination, preserves the outdated structures of exploitation and leads us to underdevelopment, misery and slavery.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my highest consideration and esteem. [Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the FSLN National Directorate and Coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

[Addressed to] Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, president of the Republic of Honduras. The letter was dated yesterday, Saturday.

As you will realize, more than being a message to Honduras and the president of Honduras, this letter continues Nicaragua's misinformation campaign because it is not intended for Central American consumption. It is to be published by the media in the world that play Nicaragua's game.

The president of the nation immediately sent an answer, the primary portion of which states the following: I regret, although I am not surprised by, the fact that the Nicaraguan Government should have decided to misinterpret the draft resolution, stating capriciously and recklessly that it was sponsored and promoted by the U.S. Government. It is understandable, for obvious reasons, the president of Honduras says, that it is difficult for your learned government to admit that there are still sovereign, independent states that are capable of formulating both their domestic and foreign policies on their own. Honduras has been perfectly consistent in its position regarding the difficult Central American situation. It includes regional, bilateral and domestic problems.

On 23 March 1982, when my government presented an initiative to internationalize peace in Central America, we made specific, serious proposals to achieve negotiated political solutions to each of the cited types of problems. Consequently, the Honduran president says, we have always promoted, as an initial step, a meeting of the foreign ministers of all the Central American countries, with the participation of the foreign ministers of other Latin American states, such as those who compose the so-called Contadora Group.

In addition to discussing regional concerns in a meeting of this kind, bilateral talks that are considered necessary could also be held. Honduras has never refused and does not now reject those talks.

However, the Nicaraguan Government seems to have adopted an inflexible position in favor of a bilateral dialogue with Honduras and the United States, invoking to this end, an alleged spirit of Contadora, the existence of which was far from noticeable in the recent talks that I held with the distinguished foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela. Moreover, to increase the rigidity of its position and make all kinds of dialogue impossible, Nicaragua is now trying to impose two unrenounceable requirements: the unconditional withdrawal of the Somozist counterrevolutionary forces that have invaded Nicaragua with the support and the assistance of the United States and an immediate halt to the border attacks on Nicaraguan territory being carried out by the counterrevolutionary bands and the Honduran Army. That is a quote from the letter that we read previously.

I believe, the Honduran president says, that those are effective recourses designed to avoid a serious negotiation in good faith to analyze the Central American problems and adopt adequate procedures to resolve the crisis and guarantee a stable, permanent peace in the area.

In effect, the novel demands of the Nicaraguan Government are impossible to meet from both the practical and theoretical viewpoints, since no one, other than the Nicaraguan Government itself, can withdraw the Nicaraguan forces that are fighting against Nicaraguans on Nicaraguan territory.

Moreover, the Honduran Government cannot decree an immediate halt to the border attacks that Nicaragua claims are being made against its territory by the Honduran Army, for the simple reason that our army has never staged and will never stage such attacks, no matter how deliberate and strong the provocation.

I would like to believe, the Honduran president says in closing, that the gravity of the circumstances and the awareness of the Central American solidarity that should prevail at this time will lead your enlightened government to reflect with serenity and agree to participate in a regional dialogue, which is the civilized means of peacefully resolving the conflicts that exist in our embattled Central America.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest and most distinguished consideration. [Signed] Roberto Suazo Cordova, president of Honduras.

PAZ BARNICA TO HEAD DELEGATION TO MEET IN PANAMA

PA181843 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1711 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica will leave tomorrow for Panama to participate in Wednesday and Thursday's meetings of the foreign ministers of Central America [as received] of the so-called "Contadora Group." The "Contadora Group" is made up of foreign ministers Juan Jose Amado of Panama, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico. A week ago these foreign ministers toured Central American countries to get as much information as possible on the position of the governments regarding a dialogue for peace in the region.

Paz Barnica will be accompanied by his advisers Ricardo Arturo Pineda Milla, Jose Ramon Hernandez Alcerro and Policarpo Callejas.

The Foreign Secretariat noted that at the meeting Paz Barnica will reiterate the Honduran Government's position on securing a stable and lasting peace for Central America within the context of an overall and regional negotiations. The Honduran Government notes that the overall and regional negotiations include the internal, bilateral and multilateral affairs of the states.

## NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO TO MEET FOREIGN MINISTERS IN PANAMA

PA190418 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Nicaragua reiterates its willingness to hold bilateral talks with the United States and Honduras during the second round of talks to be held in Panama with the Contadora Group, a Foreign Ministry source said.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman will leave for Panama tomorrow to attend a meeting of Central American foreign ministers and the Contadora Group formed by the foreign ministers of Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and Mexico. In tomorrow's meeting the Contadora Group will hold consultations for the second time with Central American governments on proposals and solutions to the Salvadoran conflict, to prevent a war between Honduras and Nicaragua and to persuade the United States to modify its attitude in the area.

FRANCE GRANTS $26 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT

FL182302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1906 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] According to an agreement signed in Paris today, the French Government granted Cuba two lines of credit amounting to DM65 million, some $26 million. The agreement granted a $20 million line credit for financing Cuban purchases of agricultural foodstuffs to be paid over a 2-year term. The second line of credit covered the financing of purchases of equipment and spare parts to be paid over a 3-year term.

The agreement papers were signed by Leon Torras, minister-president of Cuba's National Bank and Edith Cresson, French minister of foreign trade [title as heard]. Cresson proposed to hold the meeting of the French-Cuban Joint Economic Commission in Havana this year.

TALKS WITH LIBYA OPEN IN HAVANA 19 APRIL

FL190215 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The fifth session of the Cuban-Libyan Joint Commission today opened its activities at the Sierra Maestra Hotel in Havana. The delegations are headed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-president of the [Cuban] State Committee for Economic Cooperation and Muhammad al-Manqush, secretary of housing for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The meeting will review the results of cooperation in the fields of construction, public health, maritime transport, sports and light industry since the fourth session of the joint commission. The Libyan delegation will also hold talks with leaders of the organizations that are involved in bilateral cooperation.

FOREIGN TRADE TALKS OPEN WITH SPAIN IN MADRID

FL182355 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1923 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The Spanish-Cuban Joint Foreign Trade Commission has opened its first working meeting in Madrid. During the meeting, the two sides stressed their willingness to continue developing bilateral relations.

Cuba's minister of foreign trade Ricardo Cabrizas, reiterated the Cuban Government's appreciation of Spain's attitude and gestures in relation to the recent rescheduling of Cuba's foreign debt. The Cuban minister said that the agreement signed for rescheduling the debt opens possibilities for increased trade between Cuba and Spain. According to the announcement, the 1983 trade protocol will be signed next Wednesday.

HAVANA ON MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX SEMINAR

FL182140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The seminar on the [role of the] military-industrial complex in the preparation for nuclear war, against the peace, sovereignty and development of peoples, sponsored by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, continues at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

One speech, replete with data and figures which reveal the growing imperialist exportation of counterrevolution, weapons, advisors and economic resources from U.S. territory itself or through Honduras -- which has become a U.S. military base in the area -- was delivered by (Hugo Mejias), member of the Secretariat of the Nicaraguan Peace Committee. In his paper, (Mejias) revealed that of the last $110 million which Reagan requested for his new military aid plan for the Salvadoran dictatorship, $40 million will be used for communication and fuel supplies, $27.5 million for his so-called civil-action programs and some $15 million for providing helicopters, trucks and provisions for the genocidal troops. He added that just 15 days ago, five C-130 cargo aircraft airlifted 2 million M-16 rounds to El Salvador.

The seminar was further enriched during yesterday's session thanks to the participation of some specialists. An example was the speech by (Victor Parlo), noted economist and leader of the Communist Party of the United States, who revealed significant figures. (Parlo) reported that 25 heads of state and presidents, 160 lawmakers and ambassadors, 256 joint chief of armed forces and 1,834 generals from anticommunist regimes have been trained in the United States and, logically, respond to the interests of the military-industrial complex and the White House.

At yesterday's session there was also a courageous speech by Comrade (Jorge Rodriguez), representing the FMLN and FDR of El Salvador, who offered data and figures of great interest regarding the escalated U.S. intervention in the area.

Further Report

FL182225 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The third day of sessions in the seminar on the role of the military-industrial complex in preparations for nuclear war and against peace opened this morning at Havana's Palace of Conventions with Romesh Chandra, chairman of the World Peace Council, in attendance.

(Udek Kapitola), delegate of the Czechoslovak Peace Council, spoke in today's first session and unmasked the aggressive role of military-industrial complexes. He said the world assembly which is scheduled to be held in Prague in June would be an extraordinary event in the struggle for peace and would contribute toward the goal of a better destiny for all mankind.

(Pedro Munome), from the Center for Western European Studies, presented a paper on the European military industry, and simultaneously denounced its expansion, which is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of imperialism's aggressive plans.

Dr Ruben Rodriguez Cavalda, from the Commission of Scientists for Peace, described the military-industrial complex as a runaway and growing energy monster referring to the mistaken use of science and technology. In his paper, the noted scientist explained the fallacy of the outdated and false military superiority scheme and the kidnapping of scientists to put them to work in the warmongering industry of the United States, whose growth accelerated after 1962, during the early part of the Yankee intervention in Vietnam. Dr Rodriguez Cavalda also spoke on chemical, biological and thermonuclear warfare and the militarization of outer space by the Government of the United States, which the world in a permament state of tension.

The delegate from Panama, (Maurice Carrillos), referred to the use of his country by the Yankee military-industrial complex.

MAGAZINE CITES BOUTERSE INTERVIEW ON REVOLUTION

PA162354 Managua SOBERANIA in English Feb-Mar 1983 pp 41, 43, 45, 47, 49

[Report by Freddy Balzan on interview with Col Daysi Bouterse, head of the Suriname military junta; published simultaneously in Spanish and English; passages in all capitals published in boldface in original; quotation marks as published]

[Text] A NATION UNKNOWN UNTIL 1980

This tiny nation borders on Brazil, Guyana and French Guiana, produces the best rice in the world and is a multi millionaire in bauxite deposits, the latter is currently in the hands of the transnationals "Suralco" and "Billiton" -- subsidiaries of Alcoa from the United States and Shell from the Netherlands. However, until February 25th 1980, it was isolated, totally unknown to the other countries of our America, including the English speaking neighbors. This was due to the Dutch language imposed on this people by the colonialists, which to make matters worse, is spoken only by the South African racists.

The leader of the revolution, Col Daysi Bouterse (37), chief of the Surinamese National Army and chairman of the Policy Center, contrary to the image presented by the four daily transmissions of "Radio Netherlands" and by the news transnationals controlled by imperialism, is in no way an "Idi Amin of the Caribbean" or the "Tyrant of Suriname," but rather is a very charismatic man who enjoys popular support. He is lucid, calm, rational, coherent in his logic and profoundly nationalistic, but above all, he, like Dick de Bye the director of National Publicity, has a good sense of humor and smiles when the foreign campaigns against him are mentioned. Bouterse told us:

"The other day when we were playing football, we were very surprised to hear one of the broadcasts of Radio Netherlands say that I was dead."

INDEPENDENCE BETRAYED

Also we remembered that after intense discussions in The Hague in 1974, on November 25th 1975 the Netherlands consented to grant Suriname its independece. Governor J. Ferrier was "elected" consitutional president, and Parliament agreed on a Constitution. The Netherlands committed itself to economic cooperation with Suriname after its independence, but the signed treaties were broken in December 1982, citing political reasons.

With independence in 1975, the Surinamese people thought that they had entered a new stage for the solution of their problems. However, the new elite, in using every means possible to enrich itself and avail itself of power, caused chaos in the country. As a result of its antinational position and the racial divisions on which all the political parties were based, instead of strengthening national unity, it only deepened the divisions inherited from colonialism. This in a nation that imported 350,000 slaves over a period of three centuries and where Hindustanis represent approximately 37 percent of the population, Africans 36 percent, Javanese 13 percent and Cimarrones 13 percent.

Unemployment had already reached 35 percent, promoting the exodus of Surinamese people to the Netherlands.

Between 1965 and 1978, according to statistics in the book by Cecile Zandwyken, these emigrants numbered more than 130,000 creating a serious scarcity of the professionals and technicians necessary for independent development.

With the economic and political power in the hands of a privileged group, corruption prospered. This meant an enormous drain of capital abroad, neglect of the housing program, and a serious stagnation in development. This disaster occurred within five years of "independence" as a result of the "parliamentary democracy" imposed by the Netherlands which in no way reflected the true aspirations of the Surinamese people.

THE SPARK THAT IGNITED SURINAME

The day before the military insurrection of February 25th, a group of leaders of the Union of Military Cadres, over which Bouterse presided, were imprisoned in the police headquarters in the capital on the instructions of Henck Arron's government. After taking the S-204 naval launch in the Suriname River, which is on one side of the city, a group of junior officers led by Bouterse immediately joined all the army personel in the "Memre Boekoe" barracks in "Operation U Hour." From there they fired on the police building to free their captive companions. The police barracks where Arron had taken refuge were reduced to ashes and left with only six columns standing as a testimony to a past that will never return. In that place there has now been built a monument to the revolution.

The surprise was so great that both resistance and losses were minimal. People, especially the young who represent 60 percent of the population, went out to the streets of Paramaribo to celebrate.

THE PALACE WALK

Walking to the palace to hold the interview we notice the contagious atmosphere in the streets where people dance to the latest rhythms: "Kaseko" of French origin, and the "Bigi Pokoe," Hours earlier we had passed the largest wooden church in the world and were in the house museum of the great, popular, Surinamese poet, Robin Raveles (48), better known nationally and internationally as "Dobru." After lunch, where he was accompanied by his charming wife Ivonne, he read us a beautiful poem from his book "Revolution and Love."

"THE DRUM SAYS SOLIDARITY...SOLIDARITY SAYS THE DRUM...WE ARE NOT ALONE...WASHINGTON WILL FIND A MOUNTAIN...WE ARE A MOUNTAIN OF POWER...AGAINST GREED AND THE DOLLAR...FIGHT SAYS THE DRUM...THE DRUM SAYS CONQUER!...CONQUER WASHINGTON AND THE DOLLAR!"

At a quarter to eight Glenn Sankatsingh picks us up at the hotel. The palace is nearby. Everything is normal in Suriname. It has stopped raining. In Paramaribo the skies open up and after a few minutes there is a fresh breeze or the sun comes out. The soldiers are not repressive as they were before. Now they are cordial, as we confirm on entering the palace. To enter is no problem, just the formality of identification. The traffic circulating outside, is made up of 84 models and different makes of the 80,000 vehicles and 30,000 motorcycles of Suriname. All a colonial inheritance. A savage consumer society made for corruption. The colonizers taught them: "The more expensive your car, the more you are worth." This is another of the hard and difficult tasks the revolution has ahead.

To make the people see that it is more important to have a cardiologist, although maybe only one (at present there are none), than to have so many makes of cars which drain the resources of the country. Dick de Bye, the national director of information, arrives at the palace and tells us: "Commander Bouterse is on his way." Paramaribo is a small, attrative city whose houses remind us of Bluefields but, logically enough, it is more modern. What a shame that although there are connections once a week with Cayena, Belem, Caracas, and Georgetown, it is easier to travel to Suriname from the Netherlands of Miami than from any Latin American country.

WHO IS BOUTERSE?

Bouterse was born in a humble home on the 13th of October 1945 in the locality of Domburg, about 20 kilometers from Paramaribo. His mother, affectionately nicknamed him "Daysi." He was in the Netherlands doing his military service between 1968 and 1974 when he was part of the NATO troops in West Germany. He is a natural athlete and was a member of the Netherlands basket ball team at that time. He is a boxing and athletics enthusiast and for many years was the national marathon champion of Suriname in the 3, 5, 10, and 23 kilometer distance runs. He is married and has two children: a boy and a girl. Bouterse joined the Surinamese Armed Forces on November 24th 1975 as a physical education instructor, and in 1978 became president of the Union of Military Cadres. Two years later he led a group of 16 commandos who overthrew the unpopular government of Henck Arron on February 25th 1980. This latter action was described by ex-U.S. President James Carter as a "setback for democracy".

After a long journey and only two days of waiting, we find ourselves sitting at Bouterse's side in the People's Palace, which was a private preserve for three centuries until the doors were opned wide to celbrate and to infect the vanished, cold, colonial atmosphere of the past with the joy and music of the triumph of the process.

THREE OPTIONS

HOW DID YOU EVALUATE THE SITUATION WHEN YOU FELT THAT YOU HAD POWER IN YOUR HANDS?

"One of the first measures that we took was related to the need to rebuild the nation and at the same time to push for national unity, which we still consider one of our principal objectives. But at that time we had three options. The first was to establish a military dictatorship in the country. If we had taken this route today we would have imperialism's every assistance. There would be no kind of destabilization campaign working against us or against the revolutionary process, no conspiracies aimed at crushing us with mercenaries, and you would be writing somewhere else. The second alternative was to give back power to the dominant groups, for which history would never have forgiven us. The third way was to continue forward to free our country until real independence and national sovereignty is won."

A COMPLICATED PROCESS

IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS OF HARD BATTLES IN THE MIDST OF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND A CONSTANT STRUGGLE AGAINST THE detested colonial heritage: a heritage that can be seen in every type of situation in whatever country in times past and present -- AS IN THE CASE OF SURINAME WHERE NOW, for the first time, the true meaning of the word independence is known.

MEN CAN ALSO BE CORRUPTED IF THEY ARE NOT REAL PATRIOTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES. EVEN MORE SO, IF THEY ARE NOT USED TO SACRIFICE AND DO NOT KNOW WHO THE REAL ENEMIES OF THEIR PEOPLE ARE. IN THIS SENSE COLONIALISM MADE A GOOD JOB OF DENATIONALIZING THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROMOTING ETHNIC, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES. ALL THIS IS SEEN AND FELT IN SURINAME. FOR THIS REASON WE WANTED TO HEAR BOUTERSE'S OPINION. HE SAID:

"In fact the process is very complicated because our history is not very well known, even to our own people. On the one hand we are a multiracial country where completely distinct groups exist descending from "cimarrones" and natives. However in the group of "cimarrones" there is a need to consolidate the unity necessary to advance in the revolution, as the group comprises different tribes. The same is true for the natives. There are divisions between the Hindu and Negro ethnic groups running parallel to the religious problem between the Hindus and the Moslems."

On the other hand, in areas outside the ethnic religious question, colinialism has left us a false social status as our inheritance. This permeates the educational process from primary to university level, where the children learn more at school about the colonizing country than about the realities of Suriname."

For all these reasons we have been working under intense pressure for three years, from which we have been unable to enjoy even a month's respite."

"Doubtless, this is a result of hundreds of years work by colonialists, who even erased the reputation of our revolutionary predecessors, presenting them as criminals. Consequently, the relationship between history, the historical background and reality is difficult to trace."

THE NETHERLANDS HELP THE MERCENARIES

WHAT MIGHT BE THE REPERCUSSIONS IN SURINAME OF THE SUSPENSION OF ECONOMIC AID FROM THE NETHERLANDS?

"After the events in December, which they themselves instigated, they proceeded to suspend the Treaty of Cooperation for the Development of Suriname, disregarding the codes of conduct and international laws. Because of this, almost 100 million dollars of the investment program is not available to us. This directly affects thousands of workers. Furthermore agreements of military cooperation, and others of a cultural nature, have been partially suspended."

"These sanctions constitute a flagrant violation of the treaty which was signed by Suriname and the Netherlands in 1975, and also of the Treaty of Vienna concerning the law of treaties. By such means they intervene and try to influence our political development and our internal affairs. In fact, they are trying to continue the colonial domination of three centuries in Suriname, but we want to emphasise that the Surinamese Government will continue its policy of non-alignment, that we will strengthen close, cordial and friendly relations with our brother peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that we will have no fear of openly asking for the solidarity of all our friends in the region with the process of decolonization which we have initiated. As defenders of the strengthening of the Non-Aligned Countries Movement, we will reject any attempt by any nation that tries to involve us in the East-West contradictions."

However, I also want to say these sanctions have helped us in that the people have felt threatened. In the same way they helped us still more when they announced their plans to recruit mercenaries to send to Suriname because our people have become aware of the need to strengthen their unity to defeat whatever type of armed attack."

WHAT LIMITATIONS HAVE YOU HAD TO FACE IN THESE THREE YEARS OF STRUGGLE?

"We have had to face all the limitations produced by three centuries of colonialism, but at the beginning two major problems presented themselves. The first was that we came from a traditional army with a repressive mentality, many of whose members did not even understand what we were trying to do, and that for me was always my deepest worry, as there was only a handful of progressive companions on whom I count to advance the process. If the others had been bolder, it is clear that the results would have been different, but now fortunately, we can count on more honest and self sacrificing people who are prepared to continue the struggle for the benefit of Suriname and our people. The other problem is that the organization, given that during these three years we have concerned ourselves with reuniting with the progressives and have somewhat neglected the organizational problem, but we are optimistic because we hold the firm conviction that we are the ones who have to continue forward with the support of the people, which is why we have chosen a very careful line along which to make our revolution."

REVOLUTION CANNOT BE MADE WITHOUT THE PEOPLE

ALONG THIS LINE WHICH TASKS TAKE PRIORITY?

"We are all aware of the hard work we have ahead of us but in the direction we have taken three fundamental tasks as our priority: the organizational problem of the army, the elevation of its political awareness, and the need to find a solution to the problem of organizing the people, because, quite simply, it is impossible to make a revolution without the people."

"In three years we have worked hard for the people. No previous government did as much for the people as has been done in the revolutionary period, but regrettably, through lack of experience, we attached more importance to solving administrative and national problems than to organization."

HOW DO YOU VIEW INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY?

"For those of us engaged in an honest struggle for the good of Suriname and of our people, international solidarity is fundamental, as we have been practically isolated for hundreds of years and very little is known outside the country of what we are doing. We have many friends in the world and an interest to know the truth grows daily in Latin America, The Caribbean, and parts of Europe, Africa and the United States. We welcome this interest and attach great importance to the solidarity of other peoples in order to confront and defeat all the maneuvers of our enemies who try to isolate us."

WHAT IMPORTANCE DO YOU ATTACH TO THE PROBLEM OF NATIONAL UNITY?

"I consider that the most urgent problem we have to face is precisely that: unity. The colonialists brought us from different continents of the world in order to divide us as this made it easier for them to carry out the colonialization of Suriname.

But this policy of living in groups, divided and hostile to each other, belongs to the past which drew to a close in 1980. Since the revolutionary triumph on February 25th, 1980 a new reality has been established in Suriname. We must understand that Suriname needs all of us and that the best way to solve all the problems is through unity."

WHAT DID FEBRUARY 25th MEAN FOR THE PEOPLE?

"On February 25th the people were very enthusiastic, which had an emotional aspect since they would no longer put up with corruption, despotism and the continual migration from the country for lack of prospects. In that moment the people gave emotional credit to the revolution, but the moment when the people truly came down on the side of the process was when they began to realize that the financial aid we had been receiving from the Netherlands was not all it had been made out to be. From this moment the people began to understand what imperialism is, how it works, and its real significance."

THAT IS TO SAY FEBRUARY 25th MEANT THE END OF A STAGE?

"In effect, yes. We may say that February 25th was the end of a stage or an important moment in ending it, but the raising of the consciousness of the people began when they understood the Netherlands' attitude toward aid for Suriname. In the past this aid was to strengthen their own interests in the country but now that they know it will benefit the people they have unilaterally suspended it."

TO WHAT POINT DOES THIS AID HELP THE NETHERLANDS' PLANS?

"It is clear that for an underdeveloped country like Suriname any kind of help is important. However, that aid always served as a means to keep the nation in a state of dependence, since the greater part of its always went back tp the Netherlands. There are many examples of this, but to cite just one, when projects in Suriname had to be financed with the Netherlands aid, although we might have been able to buy machinery more cheaply from Brazil, Venezuela, other Latin American countries or the Third World we were not able to do so. We were obliged to buy from the Netherlands, failing which they would cancel the project. There have even been cases where Suriname had to withdraw installations already made in the country so that they could be replaced by those of the Netherlands, otherwise they would not give us support. That is to say, it has always been conditional aid."

DO YOU THINK THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT'S SUSPENSION OF AID, FAR FROM AFFECTING SURINAME, HARMS THE NETHERLANDS COMPANIES?

"I think that the Netherlands is going to have problems with its companies over this matter. We have not taken any measures against them and on the contrary have maintained a balanced attitude, but that does not in any way means that we are going to allow them to damage our country. One of the principal tasks of the new Council of Ministers is to guard the interests of the people."

WE MENTIONED TO COMMANDER BOUTERSE: SOMETHING WHICH CATCHES MOST ATTENTION FROM POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND COMMENTATORS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS IS THE MATURITY WITH WITH WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT CONFRONTS THE PROBLEMS OF THE NATION, HOWEVER DIFFICULT THEY MAY BE. BUT IN PARTICULAR, DESPITE CLUMSY AND HOSTILE POLICY OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE SURINAMESE PROCESS, NOT ONLY HAVE RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES BEEN MAINTAINED, BUT ALSO TOTAL NORMALITY IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NETHERLANDS BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTRY. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE KINDS OF LINKS TO CONTINUE?

"We have historical bonds and relations with the Netherlands. More than a third of our population lives in the Netherlands and it is a principle of our foreign policy to maintain and strengthen relations with all the countries of the world that are willing to respect our internal affairs, as we respect those of other nations. And so if the Netherlands is willing to respect us we are willing to return that respect. On this basis we are sure that links are possible. However, they are mistaken if they think they can blackmail us with the compulsory aid that they have to grant us, because we have a dignity which no one can sully."

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO HAVE BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST THREE YEARS?

"I think that the most important achievement is the fact that we have won sovereignty for Suriname: the reality of being the owners of our own country where major political decisions are made, not by other nations, but by the Surinamese."

"For many years conservative would-be politicians talked about general medical insurance and we have made it a reality. Insurance for children and the elderly was also talked about and again we made it a reality, lowering the age limit from 70 to 60 years so that the elderly may enjoy this right. At the same time we have built houses to improve their living conditions."

"In just three years we have built 10 times more houses and 10 times more roads than the previous government did in four years. No one talks of water problems in Paramaribo now, as they did in the past. We have also installed electricity and other services in areas where previously there was none."

"In the past the Development Bank did not have a policy to benefit the poor and our national companies did not have prospects that could compete with those of the large foreign companies. This we have changed. We have also remedied decades of pay arrears which were owing to teachers."

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

"We are aware that we still have a lot to do to benefit our people, but at the same time we feel that an important achievement has been the prospects and faith in the future that we have given to all Suriname. Before 1980, the airplanes which were sent from the Netherlands were full of people looking for brighter horizons, but now, although we are in a state of emergency and despite the enemy's campaigns which assert that we have no constitution or elections, we are proud that the Surinamese have faith in the future of their country and are returning to Suriname."

THERE IS NO TOTAL NORMALITY

WHEN WE CAME TO SURINAME WE NOTICED THAT THERE WERE SOME SOLDIERS IN THE AIRPORT TO PREVENT MERCENARY ATTACKS. LATER WE WERE INFORMED THAT THERE IS A CURFEW OPERATING FROM MIDNIGHT UNTIL 5 IN THE MORNING. WHEN WILL THERE BE TOTAL NORMALITY IN THE COUNTRY?

"Acutally total normality does not exist in Suriname at the moment for which the enemies of our people, not ourselves are to blame. We are peace loving and want to live in peace both within the country and also with all our neighbors in order to be able to develop the work still to be done for the nation as a whole.

At the beginning we had problems but after the events in December the situation became more difficult. Many people could not go to work as we had barely two gasoline tanks and only a few buses. Today this situation has been completely resolved, and in this aspect normality exists, but, principally outside the country, the enemy only misrepresents this with its lies and rumors. When they didn't see me for a week they began to say that I had been wounded, was in the hospital, etc., but the lies also have an opposite effect since they later have to be rectified, and they contradict themselves. The people, little by little, have lost the habit of listening to or believing in this propaganda to the point where they laugh at them because they know me well. It was like that when they invented that like Amin, who was a junior officer, liked sport and ate human flesh, I, who am a junior officer and like sport, of course must also eat human flesh. They bombard the people with postcards picturing me stained with blood. They try to demoralize members of the army and sometimes have even shot at them. But it is a small group without popular support which should beware because our military are also good shots and our intelligence service is becoming more and more efficient. On the other hand, more than 200 people's committees have been established to date, prepared to confront whatever mercenary who comes to attack Suriname. Despite all this, I think that in the space of six months we will be able to talk of complete stabilization."

AN EDUCATION IN THE SERVICE OF COLONIALISM

The existing educational system in Suriname does not correspond to reality, to the point where an authoritarian university which no longer exists in the Netherlands, still survives in Suriname, totally invalid and removed from the needs of the country. "In this way we must build something new and give the educational problem a different direction," said Bouterse, giving a first indication of popular aspiration. There is a language problem which has contributed to the isolation of Suriname. He said: "We have to begin to use an international language and we think that as English is not so foreign to us perhaps it will be possible starting from 1985 to adopt it as the official language."

A REAL REVOLUTION

And so to end the interview, we asked the leader of the Surinamese revolution our last question. This was related to the accusation that has begun to be spread by international reaction, which compares the government in this nation with the anti-popular regimes in other countries on the continent.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE CAMPAIGNS WHICH ATTEMPT TO COMPARE THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME WITH OTHER MILITARY DICTATORIAL REGIMES IN LATIN AMERICA?

"In truth the differences are many and very well known. I do not think there is any point of comparison, because all these regimes were imposed by imperialism to strangle the revolutionary struggles and to benefit the economic elites allied to the exploiters of their people. But in our case it is radically different, because we regard the struggle as a continuation of the heroic deeds of our predecessors and all the people of Latin America and the Caribbean can be absolutely convinced that, even though we may not be there in the future, our only intention is and will continue to be, to make a real revolution...."